

# Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

*A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish*



Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you that one of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Lesley Harris, died on Friday after a very short illness. Mrs Harris has been absent from work since Easter after she was diagnosed with cancer. She worked mainly with the younger children in school during the morning sessions and was a highly valued member of staff. Prior to this, Mrs Harris was an outreach worker, supporting children with additional needs in Nursery settings across the local area. During this time, she supported a number of children in our Nursery setting and was so good with the children in her care that when the opportunity arose, we were keen to employ her permanently.

Obviously our love, thoughts and prayers are with her husband Steve, her children and family at this very sad time.

I intend to talk to the children in Years 1-6 in Worship tomorrow morning when Revd Kalus will also be present. However, I thought it was appropriate to inform all parents and carers first, so that you can prepare your children for this news if you wish.

Sadly, death is something which all children have to face at some point in their lives but it can be very hard for them to comprehend and accept. I am also very aware that some children have lost family members recently or have relatives who may be ill at the moment which is another reason why I wanted to inform parents and carers first so that you can be prepared for any questions your children may have.

Please be assured that this is something which we will deal with very sensitively and carefully with the children.

Thank you for your support at this very sad time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher